

B-4435

ETTING BURIAL GROUNDS

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

The first burial took place in this cemetery in 1799, when the land was still part of Baltimore County. Today the property is in Baltimore City and access is restricted. This private family cemetery is enclosed by a brick wall with granite coping. Entrance to the cemetery is marked by an iron and steel gate.

MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES FORM
SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER SURVEY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Etting Burial Grounds

other names/site number B-4435

2. Location

street & number 1500 Block, North Ave. not for publication

city or town Baltimore vicinity N/A
state Maryland code MD county Baltimore City code 510
zip code 21217

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY

Sub: cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY

Sub: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

roof

walls BRICK

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance See continuation sheet.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage

SDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(Etting Burial Grounds)
(Baltimore City, MD)

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Period of Significance 1799-1881

Significant Dates 1799
1881

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Maps

Bromley, G.W. and Co. Atlas of the City of Baltimore, Vol. 1. Philadelphia: 1885, 1896.
Hopkins, G.M. Map of the City of Baltimore, Maryland. 1876, 1877.
Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps, Baltimore, Maryland, Vols. 2,3, and 7. New York: 1890, 1901, 1914, 1928.
Simmons, Isaac. 1852 Revision of the Thomas H. Poppleton Map. Baltimore: 1852.

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .101 acres

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(Etting Burial Grounds)
(Baltimore City, MD)

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UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	—	—	—	3	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—

— See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Block 3406, Lot 2

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are based on a city lot(s) retaining original property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Jo Lampl & Kay Fanning/Architectural Historians
organization Robinson & Associates date July 1992
street & number 1710 Connecticut Ave., NW telephone (202) 234-2333
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20009

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name c/o David Joseph
street&number 1206 Fidelity Building telephone
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21201

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 5 & 6 Page 1

Etting Burial Grounds
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Rural Agrarian
Intensification; Agricultural-Industrial Transition; Industrial/Urban
Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape
Architecture, and Community Planning; Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: site

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): funerary

Known Design Source: none

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Etting Burial Grounds
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

DESCRIPTION

This private family cemetery is enclosed by a brick wall with granite coping. The entrance to the cemetery is marked by an iron and steel gate with slender arrowhead posts. Set within the wall is a granite cornerstone, citing the founding of the cemetery in 1799.

Inside the walls is an overgrown grassy area with several neat rows of gravestones. The 25 stones are made of granite and are rounded slabs approximately three feet in height. These stones are the third set of stones to mark the graves.¹ The original stones were marble and inscribed with Hebrew and English. These are now laid on the ground, on top of the graves, embedded in concrete blocks. A second set of marble stones made in the 1940s also wore down and were plagued by vandalism. These were buried in the cemetery grounds when the granite stones were completed, according to Jewish tradition that nothing from a holy place be discarded.²

¹ "Ghetto Graveyard," Uncited newspaper article (The Jewish Times?) from the Jewish Historical Society, Etting Cemetery file.

² Delp, Joanne. "Etting Cemetery Known by Few." The Jewish Times. March 30, 1962, page 3.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Etting Burial Grounds
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

This small cemetery is a Baltimore city landmark and dates to 1799. It is the oldest extant Hebrew cemetery in the city of Baltimore. It represents an especially early Jewish land holding in the survey area. The location of this burial ground just outside the city's North Avenue boundary may suggest one or more of the following: 1) early burial restrictions for Jews, 2) affordable land, or 3) a desire for a quiet, bucolic atmosphere.

Jewish residents did not reside in this northwestern portion of the city in any number until the late 19th century, when they began moving out from the city center northwards and westwards, to the Eutaw/Lanvale area and west as far as Carey Street. After the turn of the century, German Jews moved in a northwesterly fashion to the Bolton, McCulloh, Eutaw Place corridor. There was a Jewish presence in the Penn-North vicinity by 1914, as the Sanborn Map of that year identifies Congregation Mishkan Israel at 2310 Madison Avenue (just over the eastern boundary of the survey district) in a second floor space over a first-floor garage. The Jewish presence remained strong in the Penn-North area through the 1940s, when the Schanze Theater was operating Yiddish films as the Cinema 2. (See B-4482.)

The first Jewish cemetery in Baltimore was located near the built-up portion of the city on a lane called Abraham Street, which connected "Jew Alley" to Harford Avenue. ("Jew Alley" was north of Monument Street, between Ensor and Harford.) The last burial at that cemetery took place in 1832. The ground became home to a small black church, and then a brewery in the second decade of the 20th century.³

The brick-walled Etting Cemetery on North Avenue, in fairly sound condition today, is the resting place of 25 persons, primarily of the Etting family,

³ Blum, p. 4. It is unclear whether the dead were disinterred, and the cemetery removed.

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Section 8 Page 2

Etting Burial Grounds
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and state

considered the "oldest Jewish family in Maryland."⁴ Of German descent, the Etting family's American patriarch was Solomon Etting, who became instrumental in obtaining greater rights for Jewish citizens.

Solomon Etting moved to Baltimore from York, Pennsylvania and became a successful hardware merchant with a store at Lovely Lane and Calvert Street. His position in the community soon afforded him political stature. He was responsible for forwarding resolutions to President Washington, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Baltimore Water Company, a street commissioner, and a director of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In 1797, he successfully swayed the early city leaders to allow Jews the right to hold office. In 1826, he and Jacob Cohen were elected to seats in the City Council.

The Cohen family, members of which are also interred in the cemetery, was of Prussian descent. The family's first American immigrant, Jacob I. Cohen, settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Like the Etting family, the first Cohen to move to Baltimore was a widow, Judith Solomon Cohen, who came to the city with her daughter and six sons. Her son, Jacob Cohen founded a successful banking business, and was elected with Solomon Etting to the City Council. Jacob Cohen also was a founder of the Baltimore public school system, a Commissioner of Finance for the city, and a director of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. Other members of the Cohen family were prominent citizens as well.

⁴ Isidor Blum, The Jews of Baltimore, 1910, p. 3. Mr. Blum describes the Ettings as the "first Jews in Baltimore of whom we know anything besides their names." The description of the German-originated family as "the oldest Jewish family in Maryland" comes from the grandson of Shinah Etting, the Pennsylvania-born woman who brought her children to Baltimore in 1780 upon her husband, Elijah's death.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Etting Burial Grounds
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
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Also buried in the cemetery is Zalman Rehine, a Westphalian native described as the first rabbi to come to America.⁵ A daughter of Solomon Etting received the last burial in the cemetery in 1881. (See attached sheet for a listing of those buried in the cemetery.)

The cemetery is maintained by the Hebrew Free Burial Society of Baltimore. Funds for the cemetery's maintenance are derived from a grant established by the last descendants of the Etting family.

⁵ Different sources spell this name different ways, including Zalma, Zelma, Zalman (the first two names misrepresenting the deceased as a female) and Rehine, Rebine, and Rabine. Isidor Blum, in his The Jews of Baltimore states only that "Zalma Rehine" came to Baltimore via Richmond, where "he had been a founding member of Congregation Beth Shalome." It is the local newspaper articles which state the rabbinical connection, based on the translation of the Hebrew inscription at the grave, which states: "Here is buried the reverend, the head of the Yeshila (sic), Zalma, son of Isaac, the priest, who departed this life with a good name on Sunday night..."

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Etting Burial Grounds
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

Bibliography (continued)

Blum, Isidor, et.al. The Jews of Baltimore. Baltimore: Historical review Publishing, 1910.

Clark, Michael J. "Old Cemetery Rarely Noticed." Baltimore Sun (29 June 1970; Jewish Historical Society of Baltimore vertical file): np.

Delp, Joanne. "Etting Cemetery Known by Few: Oldest Burial Ground in State at North and Pennsylvania." Jewish Times (30 March 1962; Jewish Historical Society of Baltimore vertical file): 3+.

Headley, Robert kirk, Jr. "Exit: A History of Movies in Baltimore." Master's thesis, University of Maryland, 1974.

Novak, Josephine. "Baltimore's Names: Etting." (Jewish Historical Society of Baltimore vertical file): nd,np.

Listing of those buried in the Etting Cemetery
Done Feb. 23, 1958.

1. Richea Gratz Etting, daughter of Solomon and Rachel Gratz Etting.
b. Baltimore - 18th Sept. 1792.
d. Baltimore - 17th ? 1881.
2. Shinah Etting, daughter of Solomon and Rachel Etting.
b. Baltimore - Nov. 9, 1803.
d. Baltimore - May 1878.
3. Ellen Etting, daughter of Solomon and Rachel Etting.
b. Jan. 21, 1802
d. Jan. 3, 1877.
4. Bernard Gratz Etting, son of Solomon and Rachel Etting.
b. May 6, 1806.
d. July 9, 1863.
5. Elijah Etting, son of Solomon _____ Etting.
1781-1851
6. Frances Gratz Etting, daughter of Solomon and Rachel Etting.
1791-1851
7. Solomon Etting
1764-1847
8. Rachel Etting, wife of Solomon Etting
1764-1831
9. Fanny Taylor
1766-1828
10. Solomon Etting, Jr.
1839-1839
11. Infant son of Samuel and Ellen Etting
12. John Jacob Cohen, child
1823-1823
13. Benjamin Cohen
1824-1824
14. Shinah Etting
1745-1822
15. Kitty Etting, daughter of Solomon and Rachel Etting.
d. Aug. 5, 1799, aged 16 months 8 days.
16. Barnard Gratz
20th April 1801, aged 63 years.
17. Manuel Judah
1769-1835

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18. Sarah De Pass
1760-1842.
19. Zalman Rehine
Aged 86 years
20. Rachel Rahine
b. New York, July 7, 1772
d. New York, May 1, 1863.
21. David Judah
d. May 29th, 1866, aged 22 years.
22. Sally Etting
d. June 2, 1863 (?), aged 86 years 9 months.
23. Hetty Etting, daughter of Elijah and Shinah Etting.
1770-1847

Survey No. B-4435

Neg. No. /

Historic Name Etting Burial Grounds

Current Name/Use

Address(es) 1500 Block, North Avenue

Resource/Property Type

Rowhouses

Commercial Structure

Public/Institutional Building

Attached

Public Housing

Freestanding

<u>x</u>	Site
1	1
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100	100

Other

Note: Jewish cemetery

Stories

Primary Material _____ Secondary Material _____

Roof Form _____

No. of Bays in Unit/Facade _____ If Rowhouse: _____ Flat Front _____ Swell Front _____ Porch _____

Window Type: Double-Hung

1/1 Sash

2/2 Sash

2/1 Sash

Other Sash

Transom

Door Type: Single-Leaf

Double-Leaf

Number of panels (if visible)

Transom

Architectural Style _____ Date c. 1799-1888

Noteworthy Features: Brick wall enclosed family cemetery.

Alterations:

Formstone

 Vinyl/Aluminum

Awnings

 First-Floor Use Change

Stucco

 Window/Door Changes

Missing Cornice Elements

Other: _____

Status: _____ Occupied _____ Vacant _____ Mixed _____

NR Evaluation: x Contributing Non-Contributing

Recommended for Intensive Level: x Yes No

Surveyor: Joey Lampl

Affiliation: Robinson & Associates

Date: February-April 1992

PENNSYLVANIA

WOODBROOK

ETTING

WHITELOCK

DRUID HILL

B-4435
Etting Burial Grounds
Baltimore, MD
Sanborn Map, 1901

200

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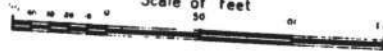
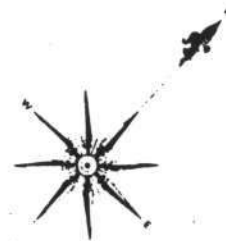
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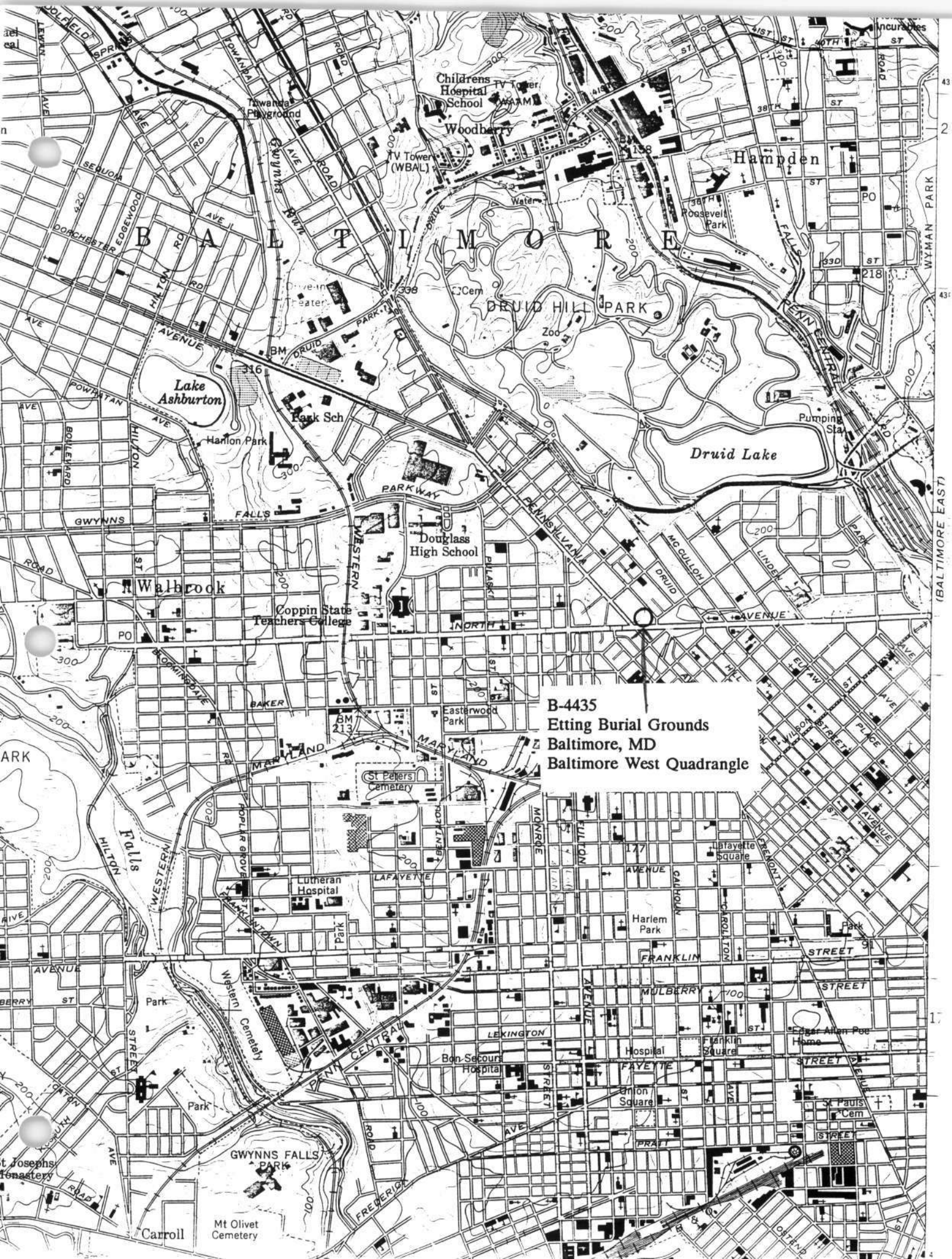
Scale of Feet



Division St

Car 3000
With this engine, pump & storage
in the basement & engine below
in a dry sandy stream

BROOKS



B-4435
Etting Burial Grounds
Baltimore, MD
Baltimore West Quadrangle



BITING CEMETERY
FOUNDED 1795
THE OLDEST AFRICAN
BURIAL GROUND
IN BALTIMORE

Biting Cemetery

Two small black and white photographs of people are visible on the sign.

Sandtown-Winchester/Penn-North

#B-44315

Baltimore, MD

Street Lamp

July 1992

City of Baltimore, Commission for Historical and Architectural
preservation

Etting Burial Grounds

1500 Block, North Avenue

View facing north

Roll 11/neg 21

1 of 3

PAPER
TYPED



Sandtown-Winchester / Penn-North
#B-4435
Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth L. Lupton

July 1992

City of Baltimore, Commission For Historical and Architectural
Preservation

Etting Burial Grounds

1500 Block, North Avenue
View facing north

Roll 11 / Neg 22
2 of 3



Sandtown - Winchester / Penn - North
B-4435
Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth Lamp
July 1992

City of Baltimore, Commission for Historical and Architectural
Preservation

Etting Burial Grounds
1500 Block, North Avenue
View facing North

Roll 11 / neg 23
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